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PIBS # 3671E

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The provincial government established the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation (Great Lakes Ontario) in early 1998 to lead efforts to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem. With \$5 million in seed money from the province, the foundation will seek additional funding from the private and non-profit sectors.

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The Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation

The Ontario government is working with the federal government, municipalities and citizens' groups to protect the Great Lakes basin and restore polluted areas to a healthy state. Significant progress has been made, but more needs to be done.

Great Lakes Ontario is a non-profit organization which has been created to help achieve the goals set out in the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

The foundation will:

- fund cleanup projects
- fund habitat restoration
- support research
- raise awareness of the importance of the Great Lakes and opportunities for individual involvement in restoration projects
- seek donations from business, non-profit groups and individuals

A temporary board of directors has been formed to decide priorities for the foundation and determine how it will operate and raise necessary funding. A permanent board of directors will be appointed later this year.

Great Lakes Ontario will work at arms length from the government and will be accountable to the Public Guardian and Trustee.

Contributions will be used to rehabilitate shorelines, clean up contaminated sediments, prevent pollution, promote water conservation and efficiency and support research.

Many people appreciate the importance of the Great Lakes and want to be involved in their restoration. Great Lakes Ontario will help bring these people together. With the seed money provided by the province, the foundation hopes to attract individual and corporate partners who will support clean up initiatives.

To learn more, please call (416)314-7973, or visit the Great Lakes Ontario site at www.greatlakes.on.ca.

